

Application No.: 09/843,051
Amendment Dated: May 14, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the merits of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendment above and the remarks that follow.

Upon entry of the Amendment above, claims 1-4 and 8-13 will remain pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4 and 8-13 are amended and claim 21 is added. No new matter has been added as a result of the Amendment.

Amendment

Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error, where "5 millimeters" has been changed to "0.5 millimeters".

Claims 1, 2-4 and 8-10 have been amended to positively recite an electrode connector as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 21 recites a method using a device with claim language similar to claim 1 as previously presented.

No new matter has been added as a result of the Amendment.

Election/Restrictions

Applicants acknowledge that claims 16-20 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 1-4 and 8-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to meet the written description requirement. Applicants traverse the rejection to the extent it is maintained.

The Office Action stated that the coil electrode outer diameter was not described in the original specification as being in the range of "about 5 millimeters" to about 2.0 millimeters, but was described as being in the range of "about 0.5 millimeters" to about 2 millimeters. A typographical error was made in the previous amendment, which stated a range of "about 5 millimeters to about 2 millimeters." The present amendment corrects that typographical error and claim 1 now recites a range of "about 0.5 millimeters to about 2 millimeters." The present claim 1 now has support in the originally filed specification.

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In addition, the Office Action stated that the original specification did not describe the proximal connector and coil electrode; butt-welded; adhered; and having substantially common outer and inner diameters, but rather the original specification describes the coil electrode connected to a band or ring shaped connector in the above-identified configurations, but not connected to the proximal connector. Claims 1, 2-4, and 8-10 have been amended to recite an electrode connector as suggested by the Examiner.

In light of the Amendment, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC §102

I. Schaer, US Patent No. 6,251,107

Claims 1 and 11-13 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Schaer. Applicants traverse the rejection.

Claims 1-4 and 8-13 as amended require an electrode connector connected to a conductor and the coil electrode. No such connector is disclosed in Schaer. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 21, which recites language similar to a previous version of claim 1, Schaer does not teach or suggest that a lead as described in claim 21 may be used to stimulate a sacral nerve.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Speicher et al., US Patent No. 4,603,705

Claims 1 and 11-13 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Speicher et al. Applicants traverse the rejection.

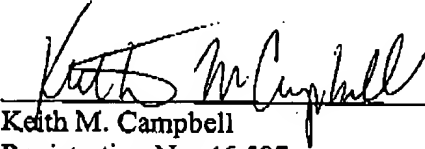
The Office Action stated, *inter alia*, that Speicher teaches a coil electrode diameter of about 3 to 4 mm. Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error, such that claim 1 now recites an electrode diameter in the range of about 0.5 mm to about 2 mm. Speicher does not meet this claim limitation. Claims 11-13 depend from claim 1, as such Speicher does not meet all the limitation of claims 11-13. As Speicher et al. do not disclose all the elements of the claims 1 and 11-13, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing amendments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and notice of same is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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